

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 04, 2003***

TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Tropical Weather Discussion (TWD) is an alphanumeric product providing information on current atmospheric conditions at the surface and aloft such as tropical cyclones, mesoscale and synoptic scale features, and areas of shallow and deep convection. This product is prepared over the tropical and subtropical Atlantic and Pacific ocean areas by the Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) and the Honolulu Weather Forecast Office (WFO).

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued routinely two (WFO Honolulu) to four times (TPC) per day, and updated if necessary, when significant changes occur, e.g., a tropical cyclones intensity category is upgraded or downgraded. This product is mainly intended to provide current weather information for those who need to know the current state of the atmosphere to assist them in their decision making. The product provides to the user the meteorologic reasoning behind the forecast and in some cases a degree of confidence. Model performance is also discussed.

3. Audience:

The target audience for this product includes: foreign meteorologists in World Meteorological Organization regions to assist them in the preparation of their products and services, ocean going vessels, recreational mariners, and military and government agencies.

4. Presentation Format:

The product is made available in alphanumeric format, and is prepared in a consistent manner by the offices mentioned above.

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via Internet page e-mail links to program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services, and managers at the TPC and Honolulu WFO.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the TWD may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Scott Kiser W/OS21
Tropical Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126
Silver Spring, MD 21910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. Format and Science Basis:

The TWD product is disseminated in alphanumeric format and contains sections on Tropical Cyclones/Tropical Waves/Disturbances, the location of the Intertropical Convergence Zone and associated convection along it, surface/middle/upper level synoptic discussion, and significant clouds/convection. The product is written in a plain language format but will contain meteorological terms such as trough, ridge, subsidence, jet stream, etc.

2. Availability:

One TAFB discussion will cover the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic between the equator and 32° north latitude and be transmitted at 0605, 1205, 1805, 0005 UTC. A second TAFB message for the eastern Pacific between the equator and 32° north and east of 140° west will be transmitted at 0405, 1005, 1605, and 2205 UTC. CPHC/WFO Honolulu will prepare messages for the central north and south Pacific (30° N to the equator, 140° W to 180° and 25° S to the equator, 120° W to 180°) and a second one for the western north and south Pacific (30° N to 25° S, 180° to 100°) E to be transmitted at 1000 and 2200 UTC. The following Internet sites are locations to access the TWD product:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/forecast.shtml>

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/pages/satellite.html>

3. Additional Information:

Further information about the TWD, including areas of responsibility, is described in NWS Instructions 10-601 which is available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.